



natural lakes, and Mississippi River. It is an excellent bait fish.

Habitats

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide except the southwest corner

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

common shiner

Luxilus cornutus

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

Features

The common shiner has a stout body and is somewhat flattened side to side. An adult may reach lengths of eight to ten inches. It has an olive green stripe with bluish reflections down the middle of the back with two or three narrow parallel stripes on either side that can be seen from above. The sides and belly are silvery. Breeding males are tinted with pink over their entire body and have dusky dorsal and tail fins. The common shiner has dark coloration behind scattered scales, which makes it appear as if it has lost some scales. The scales along the side are raised and appear diamond-shaped. The mouth is at the tip of the snout.

Natural History

The common shiner prefers clear water, reaching its greatest abundance in the upstream tributaries of major rivers. It is found throughout much of the state, but is most common in the large interior rivers,